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ABSTRACT

Semi-dormant volcanoes, bombing by the Japanese, fierce storms, isolation, high fuel costs, and bureaucratic harrassment are some of the conditions peoples of the Aleutian village of Atka, Alaska, have had to contend with in years past. In this illustrated booklet, printed in both Western Aleut and English, Lydia and Moses Dirks, lifetime residents of Atka, recount happenings from years past. The short stories tell of such events as fishing, reindeer hunting, fox trapping, the art of basket weaving, and of a storm so fierce people thought their homes would be blown away. A theme of dissatisfaction with various government policies emerges from some of the narratives. One story tells of the use of the island as an air strip during World War II and the mess that was left behind when the strip was closed. It is mentioned that some people think the U.S. Navy is trying to force the people to leave the island and examples are given of some Navy actions that seemingly lend credence to that idea. The sea otter is described as a nuisance, protected by the government, yet so abundant that otters are stripping the area of food sources commonly used by the Aleut people. This document is intended for use in bilingual education instruction. (DS)

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ATXAX

AUG 1979

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ATXAX
(ATKA)

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From material given by
Lydia Dirks and Moses Dirks of Atka, Alaska

Prepared in Western Aleut by Moses Dirks

Illustrated by J. Leslie Boffa

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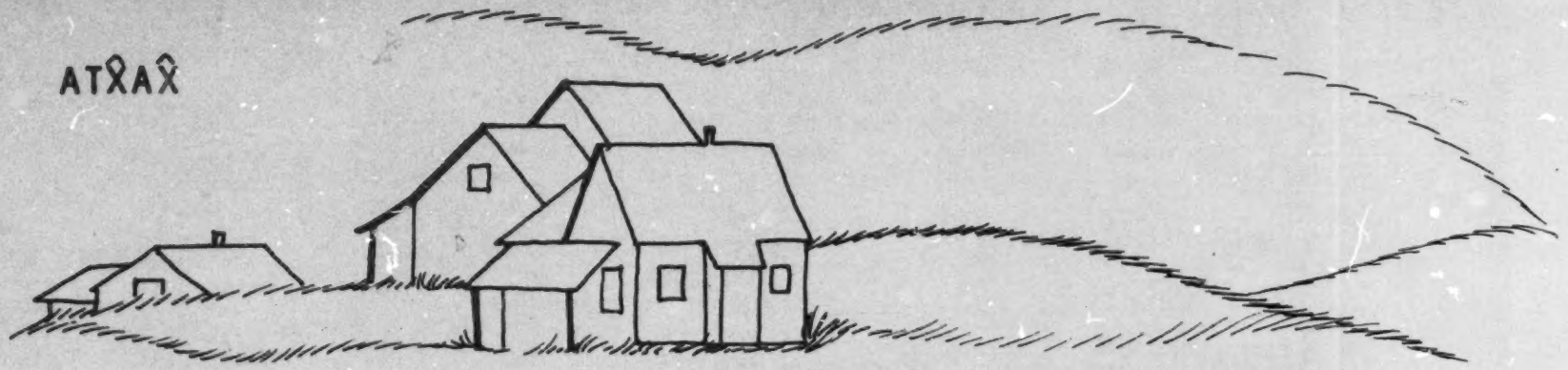
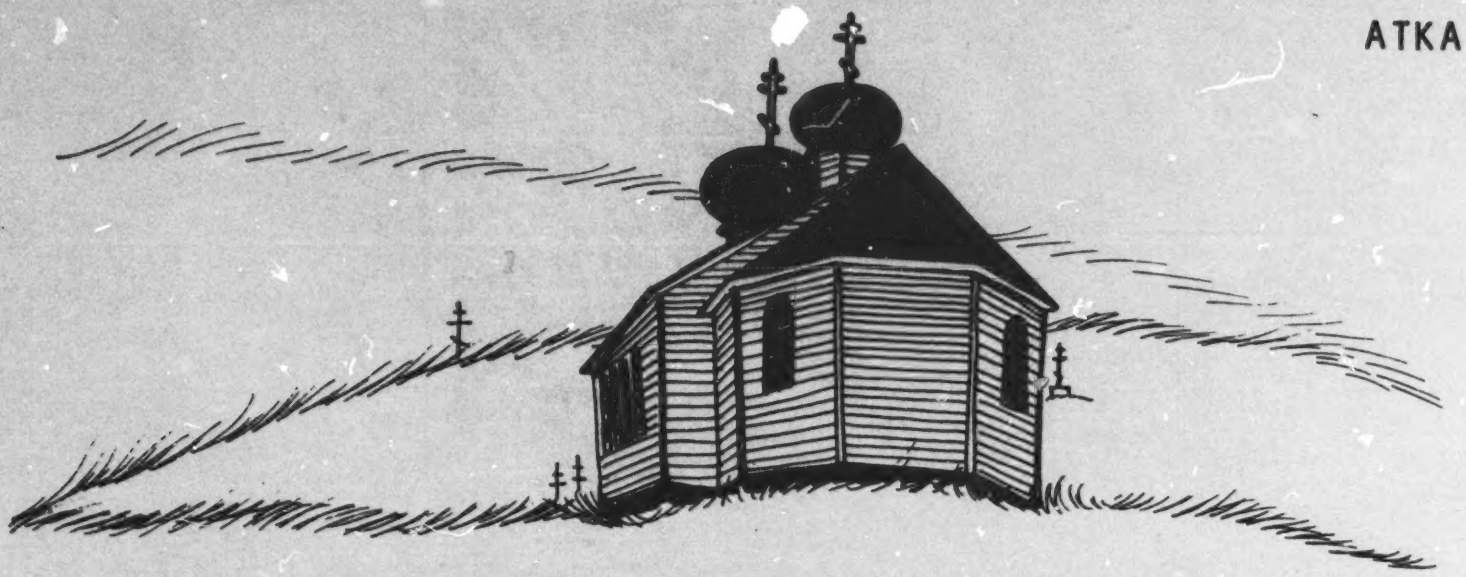
ATX̂AX̂



Atx̂am tanadgusii algidim hatix̂ ulas matax̂. Atuung ulam tagandangis agulgaqas. Akan slum kugaan uluung ulam staarangis agulgaqas. Ulam staarangis txidix aĝix̂taasanangis ilax̂tangis awaalaaĝan aqas. Ulam staaragan awaalaqangis sadaaĝingis ama iluuĝingis kraasxilgakus. Ulas staarangis daĝan rastikam angalidigangis ax̂sxanas.

Atx̂am kugan kasakam kamgagan ulaa ax̂. Alax laavkix Atx̂am kugan ax̂. Ataqan unangam laavkii akux̂, agitaadaa Sergigan Laavkii akux̂. Achixaaluĝim ulagan staaraa chidaĝan achixaaluĝim tagadaa agulgaqax̂ mal wayaam achixaaluĝim tagadaa Atx̂am kugan akux̂. Wayaam achixaaluĝim ulagan staaraa tanadgusim ludaaĝingis sux̂tazakuu. Tanadgusim tilifuunii llax̂taa hamang akux̂. Quchxaan Atx̂am tilifuunii awal aqadaguun quchxaan awazalakax̂, matalgaa iĝamanakux̂. Atx̂am puust uufisii llax̂taa hamang akux̂.

ATKA



The village of Atka has about twenty homes. Six homes are new. In 1977 seven old homes were repaired. More of the old homes will be repaired. The repaired homes have been painted on the inside. Bright colored siding was put on the outsides.

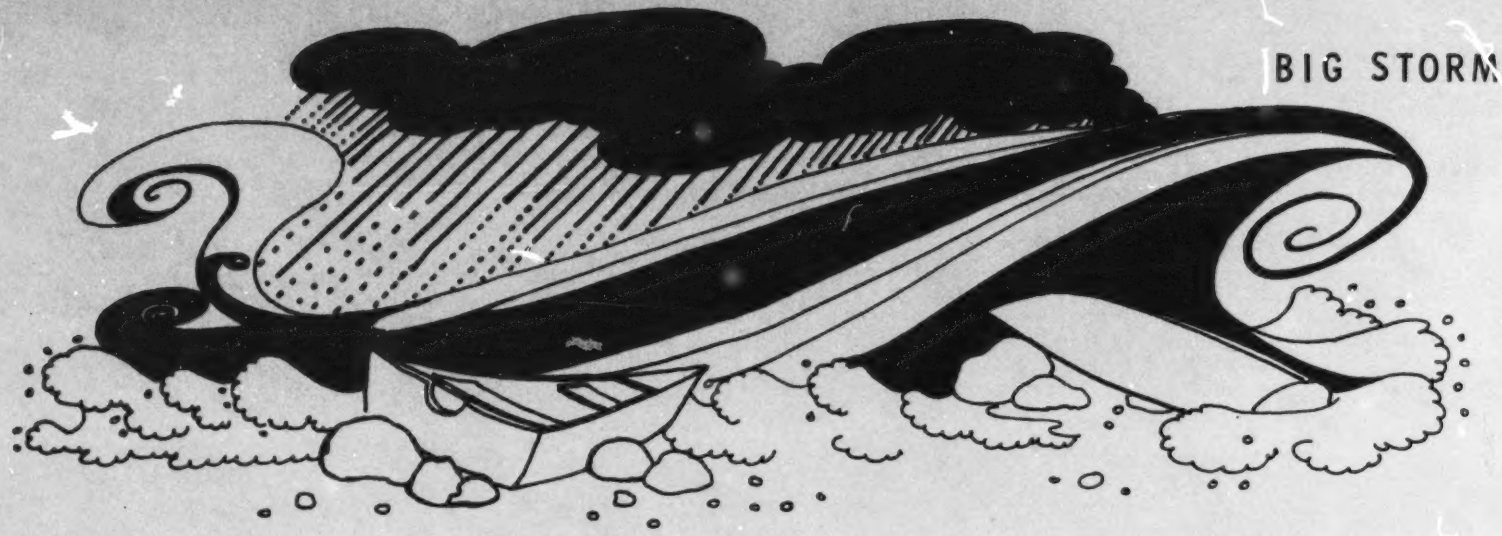
There is a church in Atka. It is Russian Orthodox. There is a Native store and another store owned by Sergi Golley. The old school was replaced by a new school. Now the old school building is used for the office of the Village Corporation. The village telephone is in the Native Corporation office. It often doesn't work but it is nice to have. The post office is also in the old school.

SLAĜUX̂

Atx̂aX̂ slaĝutuzaX̂. Atx̂am anĝaĝinangis slaĝuX̂ ama chix̂taX̂ taĝaX̂-takus. Nuyaabram kugan slaĝum angunaa hamaaĝal anĝaĝinas iĝa-tanaX̂.

SlaĝuX̂ angalikinga hatiX̂ chasim ilan txin ayugnil amgim huzuu ama angalim huzuu slaĝunaX̂. Ataqan ulam imdaĝiĝulaa tanagan kugaan qutaxsxal agasxal, hizax ulam tagadaa kanxunaX̂. Alax ayX̂aasix qutax-sxal, ataqan ayX̂aasim quhmaa huzuu siX̂il, aasal ayX̂aasim uluudaa itX̂akix uxsinaX̂.

Anĝaĝinas uladix qutaxsxaaĝan aX̂s anuxtal txidix iĝatanas. aniqdus hingan angaliX̂ ulalĝitalgaqas. Ukuusxim agiitingis ilmudan qutaxsxaqas aaĝdagalikus siX̂tihlinaĝulas.



BIG STORM

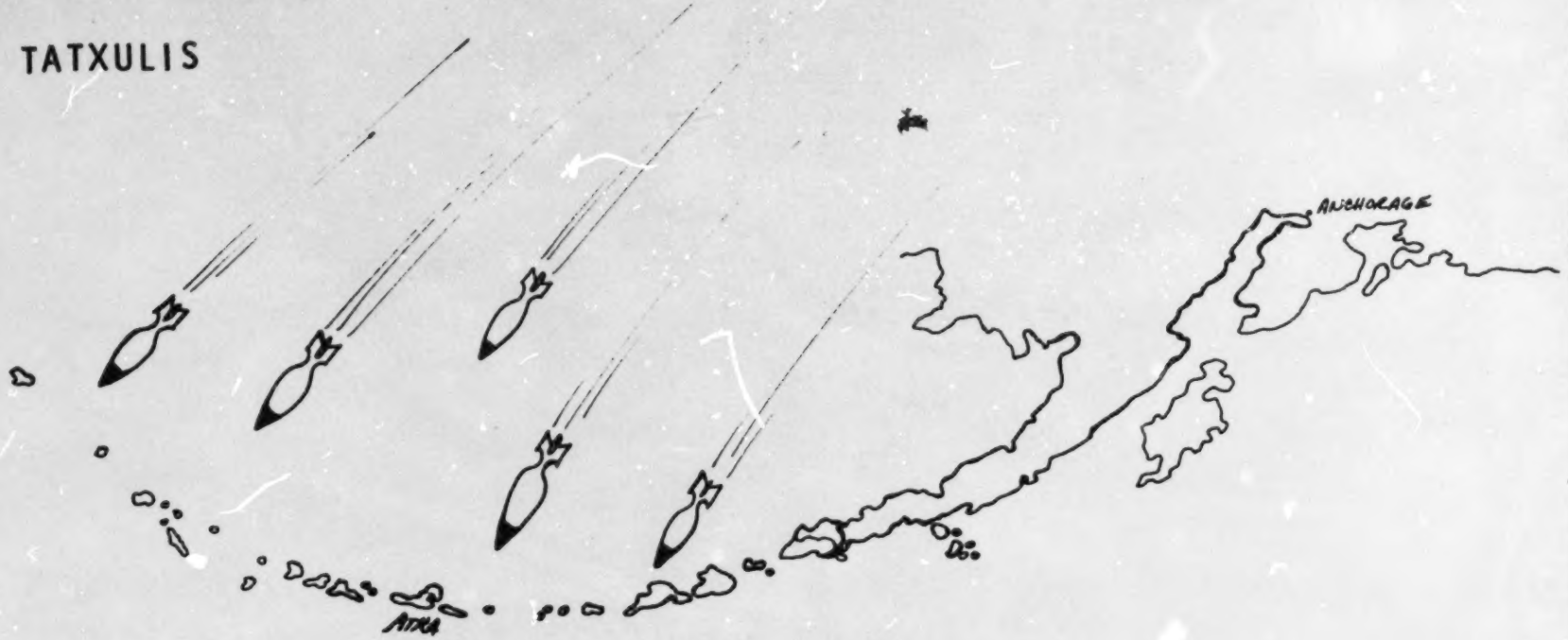
Atka has lots of storms. The people are used to wind and rain. But a really big storm came in November. It scared the people.

The storm began at 10:00 o'clock one night. The wind kept up all night and all the next day. It blew an empty building off of its foundation. It wrecked two aluminum boats. A white boat was completely destroyed. A red boat was damaged.

People thought the houses would blow away. The children were kept inside. Some windows were blown in but none were broken.

After the storm, the old building was torn down so it wouldn't hit the next building in a later storm. The older people say they have never seen a worse storm.

TATXULIS



Alitxum aslagaan yapuunis tatxulis suxtal Atxax tatxinas. Udakus tanas alitxudsal hamamanas. Igaxtas hakaatxax igaxtal taxulidix itxilanas. Taxulis tanadgusim umunaa itux̂sal aagakus tanadgusix̂ katalakan txidix haaganinas.

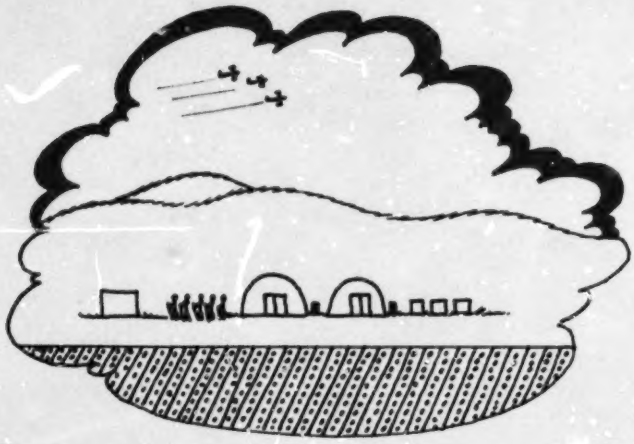
Atxam angaginangis Atxam kugaan agasxal, kuluzam tanangis hadan agasxaqas, aagan yapuunis atxazalagaaqangis hamamaalaqas. Tangikucham Killisnoo asaxtaa, Admiralty Tangiganagan chidagan akux̂ hnuulaqas. Alitxux̂ 1945 inakugaan Atxam angaginangis Atxax̂ hnuulaagutaqas.

BOMBING

During World War II, Atka was bombed. It happened when the Japanese attacked the Aleutian Islands. The planes were very high when they dropped their bombs. The bombs fell all around the village and made holes. No bombs hit the village.

The people of Atka were moved from Atka. They went to Southeast Alaska where they would be safe. The place where they went was named Killisnoo. It is close to Admiralty Island. In 1945 the war ended. Then the Atkans went home.

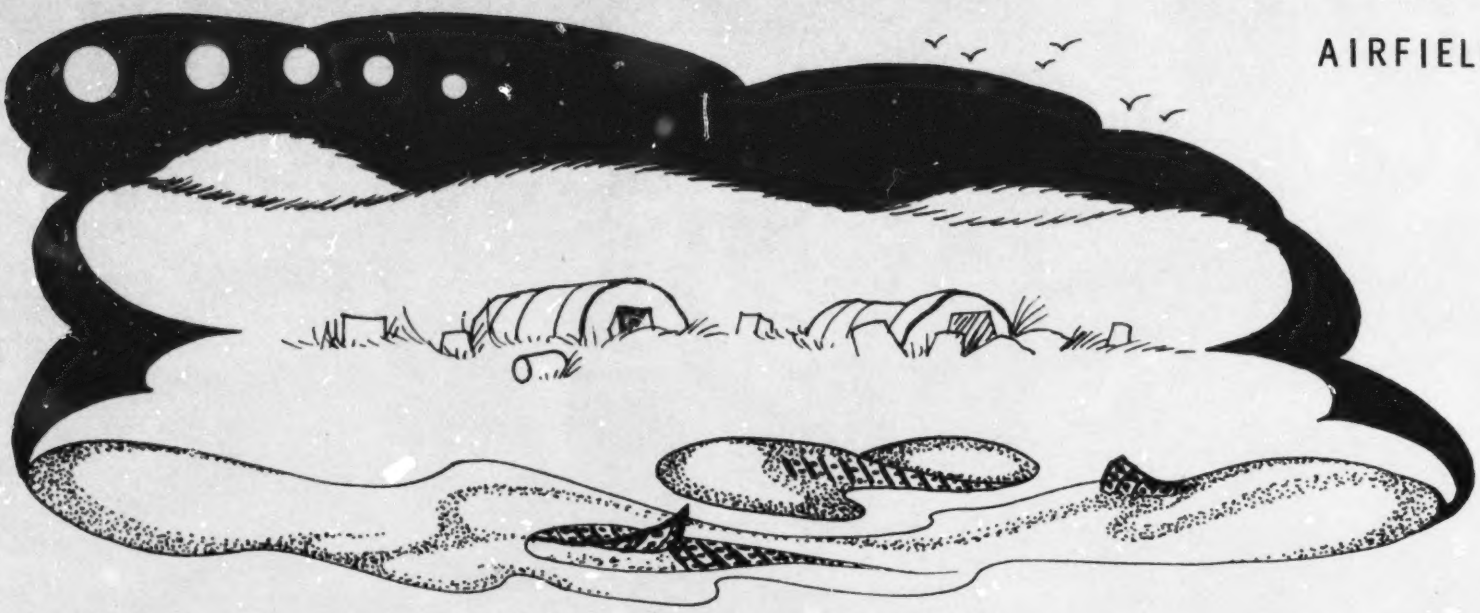
IGAX̂TAM TAGAALUĜII



Igax̂tam tagaaluĝii Atx̂am kugan ax̂. Alitxum aslagaan Atx̂am kugan agulgaqax̂. Saldaatas Atx̂am kugan akus igax̂tas ngaan tagaalux̂tazaqaa. Igax̂tam tugaaluĝii saahmim ilagaan aguĝinax̂. Saldaatas hatis nagan ulaĝizanas.

Alitxux̂ inakuĝaan Atx̂am anĝaĝinangis Atx̂ax̂ hnuulakuĝaan igax̂tam tagaaluĝii sux̂talgayugaaĝinax̂. Hingamalikuĝaan saldaatas ayugalakuĝaan agalagaan igax̂tam tagaaluĝii suĝazaqadanax̂ mal hamamatal hamang akux̂.

Wayaam haman igax̂tam tagaaluĝigan hangadan chugutukux̂. Hamakus hatis ilax̂tangis hamang ahlikus, six̂tux̂sal anax̂ aqadakus. Kaznax̂ hagyayaax̂ hix̂taqaa akux̂ tachim anaĝis maalalakax̂.



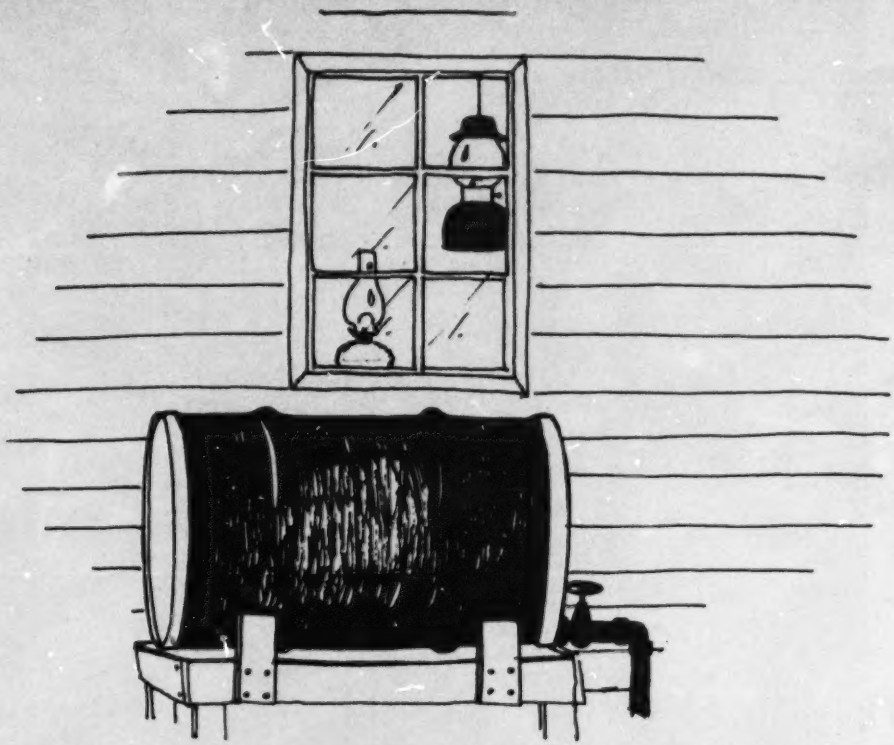
AIRFIELD

There is an airfield on Atka. It was built during World War II. There were soldiers on Atka and it was used as an airbase. The runway was made of steel mats. The soldiers lived in huts.

After the war, the Atkans returned to their homes. The airfield was used for a little while. When the soldiers all left, the airfield was no longer used.

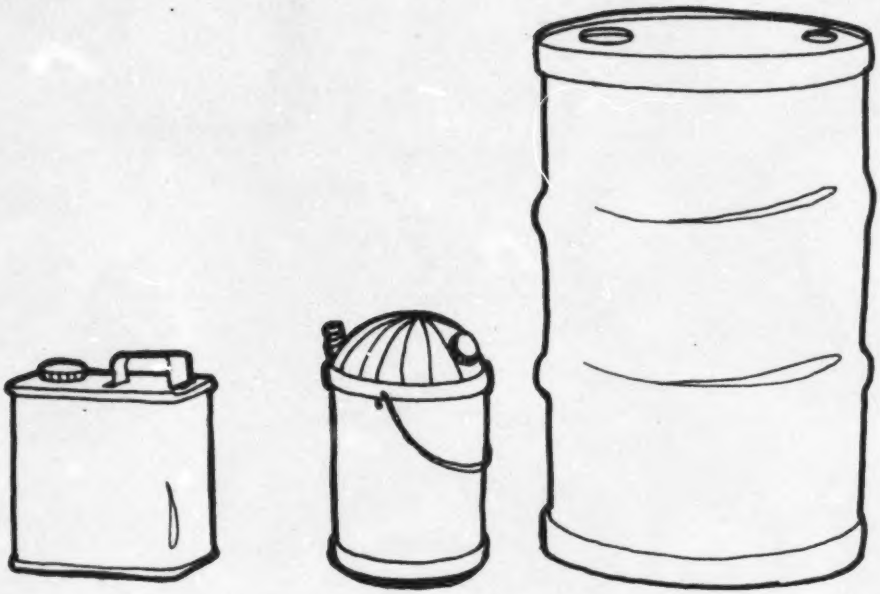
Now the airfield has sand heaps on the runway. The steel mats are buried. The huts are still there. They are falling apart. The government said it would clean up the mess. It isn't cleaned up yet.

AKIS



Wayaam Atx̂am kugan akitux̂ malgakux̂. Anaĝim triivalganangis akituugamax̂sizakus. Plitam chadugan dramii chaangidim hatix̂ chaang duuluax̂ akix̂takux̂, qan'gim aslaan ataqan chadum dramii ataqan nidilix̂ chugaasazakux̂ kamiinax̂ ama plitax̂ suĝakux̂ mal.

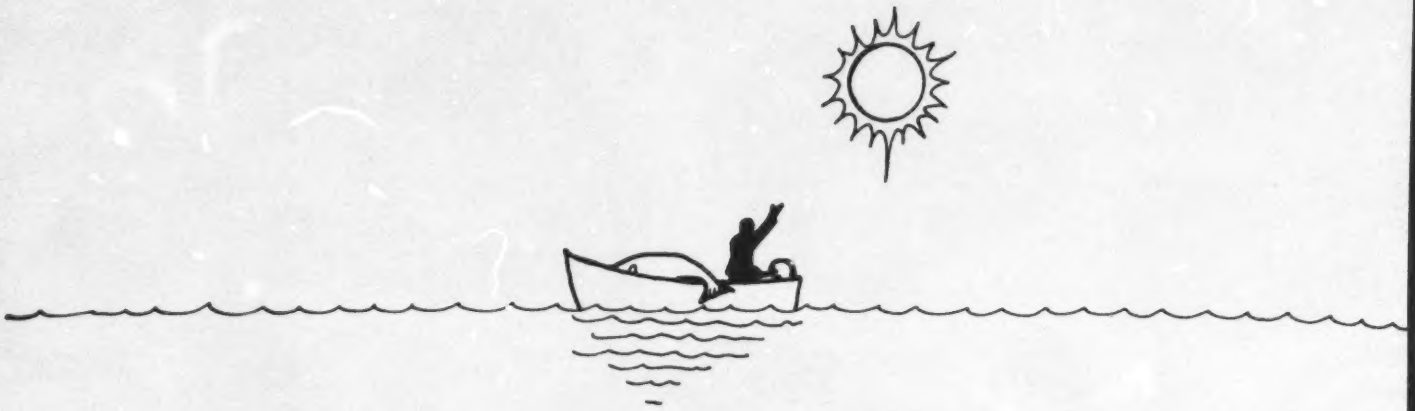
Gaazax̂ ama gazaliinax̂ uudalingis akitukus. Chaang gaalinax̂ gaazax̂ hatim ataqan duuluax̂ akix̂takux̂. Gazaliinam gaalinaa alax duuluax̂ signax̂taa akix̂takux̂. Laampas ngiin gaazax̂ suĝal aasal gazaliinax̂ ayx̂aasim masinangis ngaan suĝazakus. Chx̂uuĝim masinangin ilax̂tangis masinaĝikus.



Prices are high on Atka. It is expensive to ship things to Atka. Fuel oil is $55 for a fifty-gallon drum. It goes fast during the winter. It takes a drum a week to run a stove and a heater.

Kerosine and gasoline are also expensive. Kerosine costs $11.00 for a five-gallon can and gasoline is $2.15 a gallon. We use kerosine for lamps and gasoline for motors. Even our washing machine has a motor in it.

QALĜUX̂

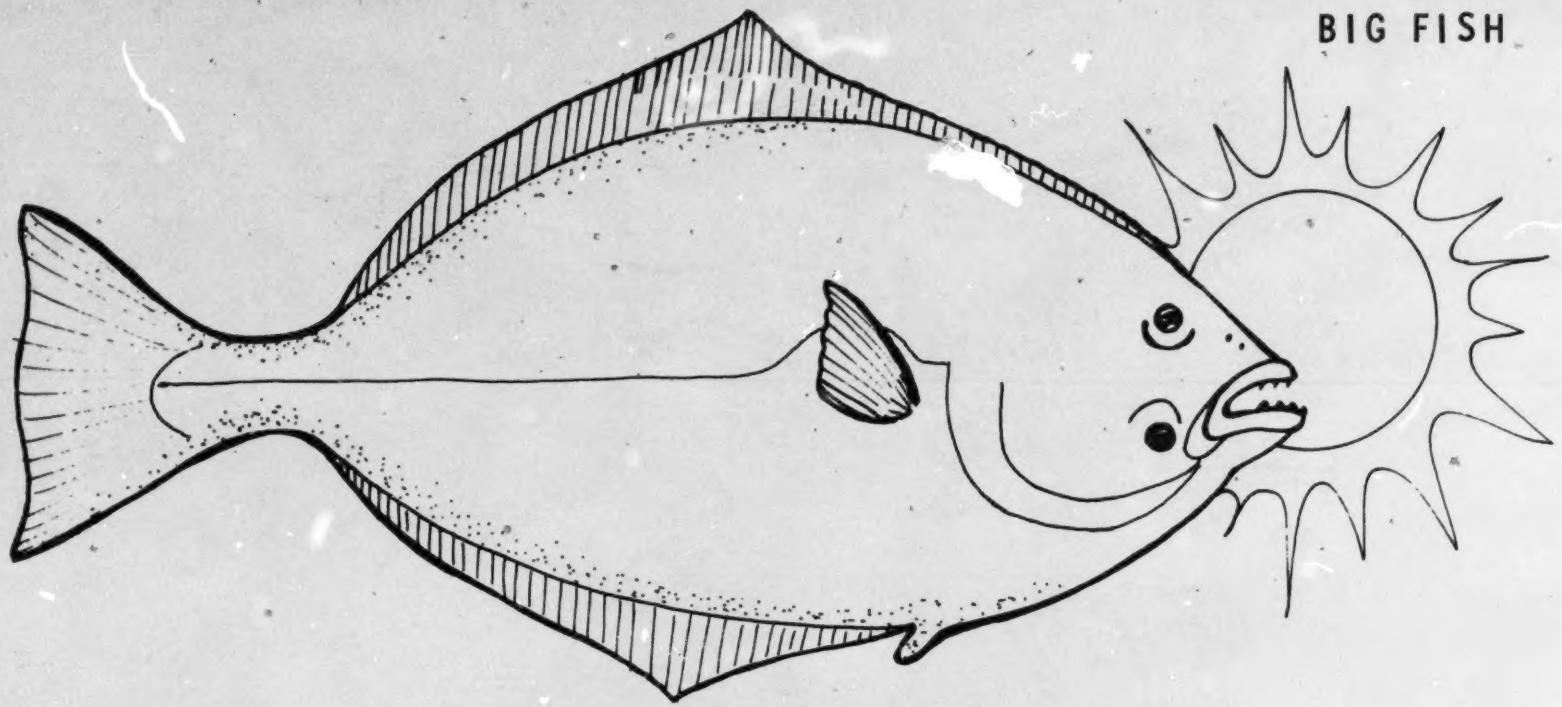


Chagix̂ qalĝum angunanaaguzaa Atx̂am kugan akux̂. Nikulaay yaarusaan kugan chagilĝux̂ axitnax̂. Alax sisax ignax̂taakanax̂. Huzuu isilal tanadgusim anĝaĝinangis achxulanax̂. Ulas anĝaĝinangis huzungis chagim ilaa atxazanas.

Chavichax̂ qam angunaa aaĝutax̂. Nuyaabram tugidagan uhlii kugan Atx̂ax̂ agzas. Tayaĝus truulal lazangis.

Chagix̂ qam qaatanaa azax̂. Chavichax̂ qaatunakum kum chadutuugamax̂sizas.

BIG FISH



Halibut is the biggest fish caught around Atka. Nick caught a very large halibut on his set line. It must have weighed around 200 pounds. He cut it up and shared it around the village. Every family got a piece.

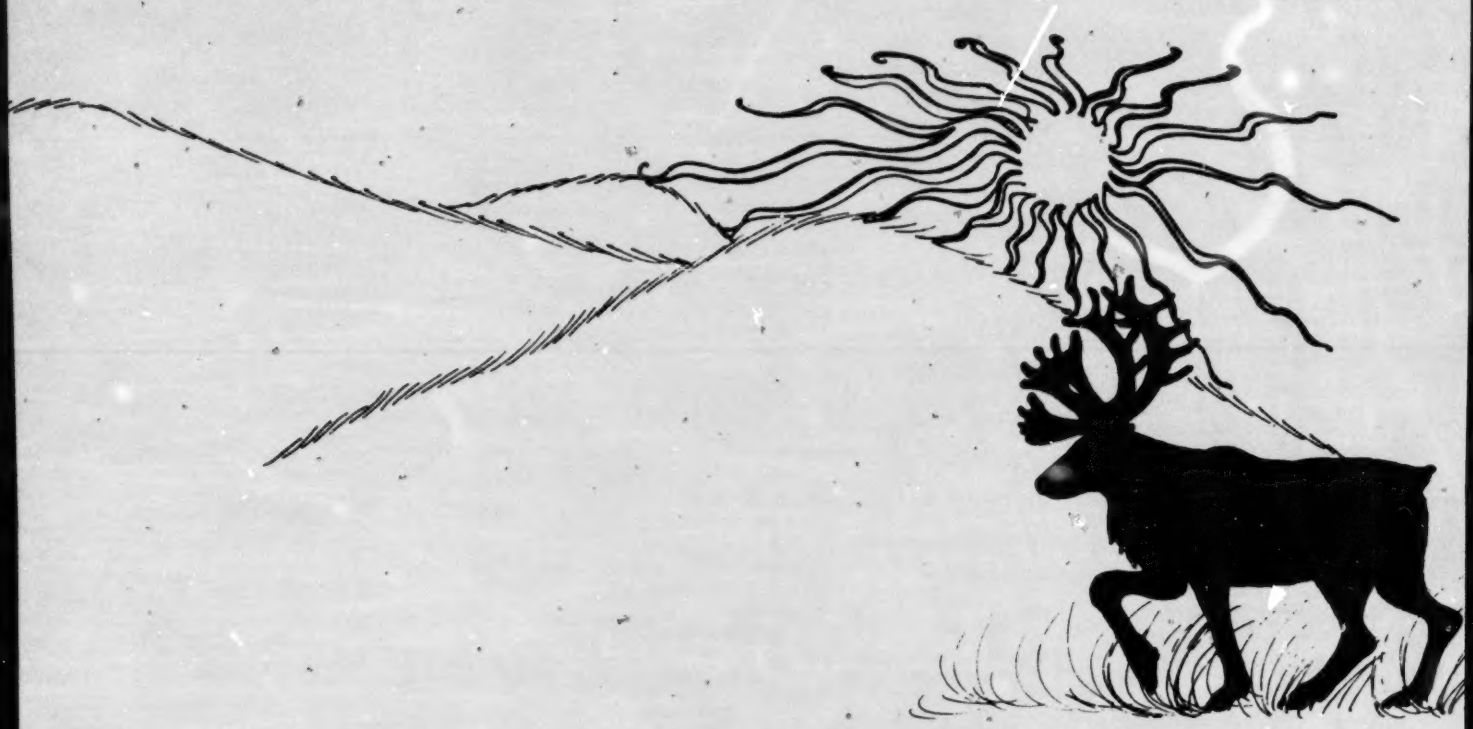
King salmon are big also. They only come in November. The men catch these by trolling.

Halibut is the best tasting fish. King salmon is good but it is too oily.

ITX̂AYGIS

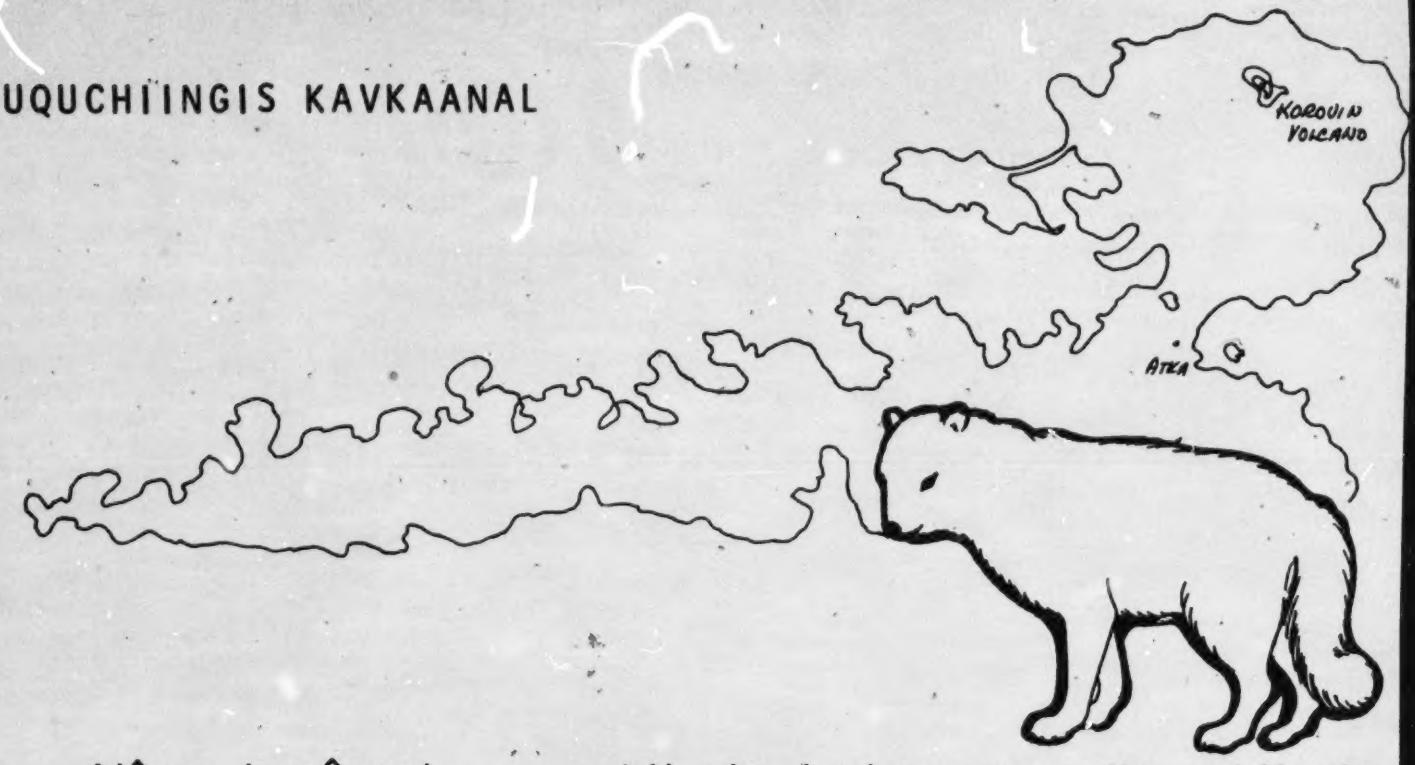
Atx̂am kugan itx̂aygis as. Ukunaĝilakan Atx̂am kugan haang azas. 1901 ahmiĝan kaznam Atx̂ax̂ hnuusal hamang aĝiqangis. Wayaam tanadgusim ahmiĝan azaĝulas. Aaĝan sabaakas gunizakungis mal. Ayx̂aasis amaatxax̂ hnux̂tal aguun taaman atxazazakungis, madigal agungis tanadgusim qaakaa sanax̂ atxazazakus. Slum aslagaan itx̂aygis kiiĝuusis tanax̂tazas, aqadaguun qan'gix̂ masxal aguun kims alaĝum achidan tanax̂taqalizas.

REINDEER



There are reindeer on Atka. They run wild and are not herded. The government put the reindeer on Atka in about 1901. The deer aren't close to town. It is about sixty miles round trip by boat to hunt them. On a good hunting trip it is possible to get enough for the village to feed on. During the summer the deer are up in the mountains. In the winter they are down near the shore.

UUQUCHIINGIS KAVKAANAL



Atx̂am tayaĝungis uuquchiingis kavkaanazas. Uuquchiingim chidĝingis ama sirivrangis malgakus. Atx̂am kugan uuquchiingim chidĝingis uhlingis azas. Amlagim kugan uuquchiingim chidĝingis ama sirivrangis azas. Uuquchingim igluqagan iĝamananangis uluungidim hatix̂ duuluras ataqan akix̂tazax̂. Ataqan tayaĝux̂ alax hlat as kavkaanal qamchiingidim hatix̂ uuquchiingis ataqan qan'gim ilan agux̂tanax̂.

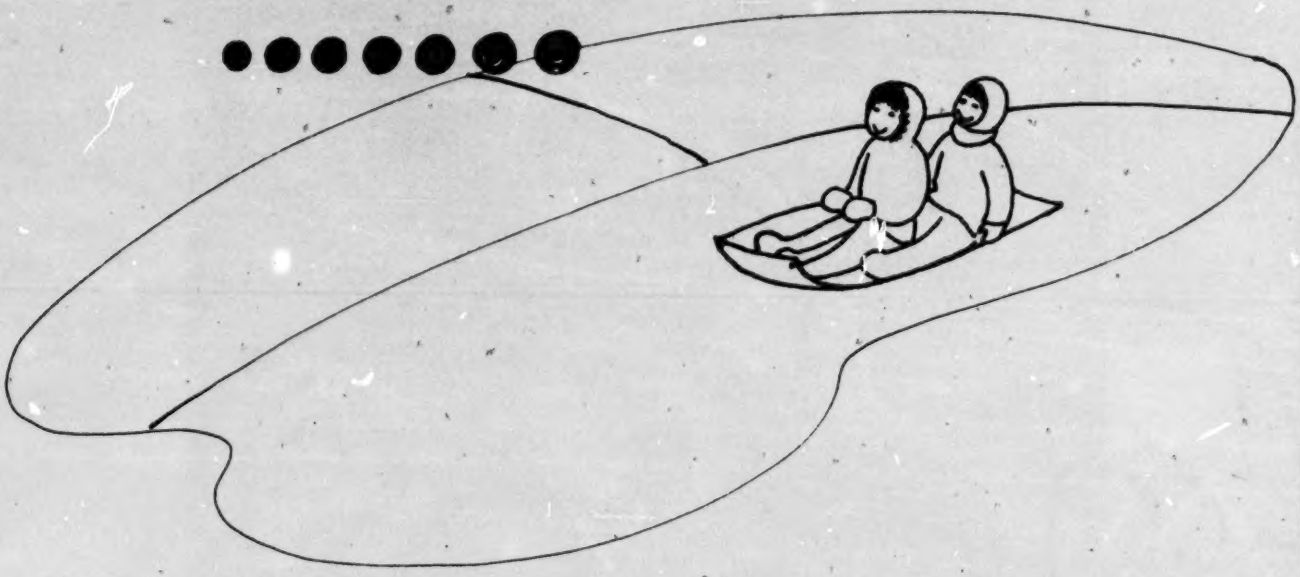
Uuquchiingis igluqangis amgix̂sikus akus slum aslagaan tanasxaadalgal aguun tanaaĝax̂tal qalgadangin chxax̂ maqax̂tazas.

FOX TRAPPING

Some of the men on Atka trap fox. There are both blue and silver fox. Only blue fox are on Atka. The island of Amlia has blue and silver fox both. The best pelts are worth $70 each. One man and his two sons got eighty fox in one winter.

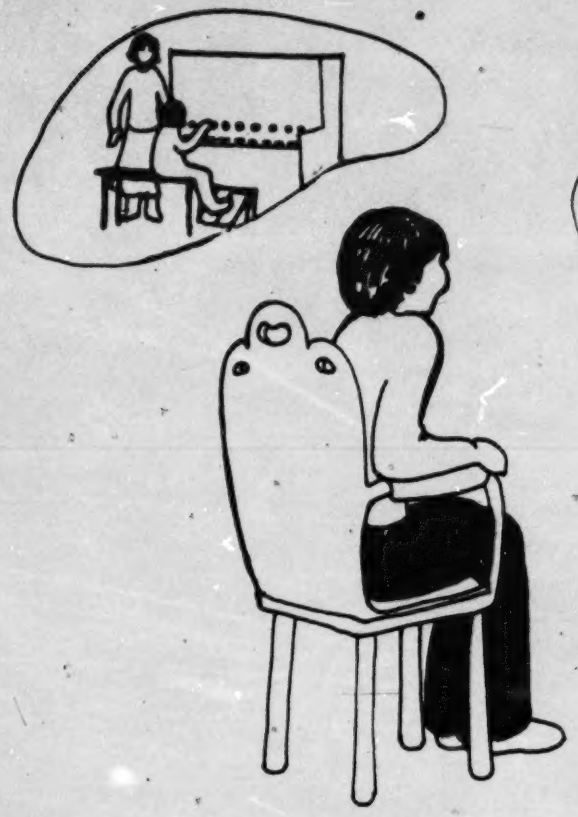
Fox have beautiful fur but they have bad manners. In the summers we go camping. The fox come around and steal our food.

ANAĜIM QAĜANAAZANGIS ANUXTAASAQAN!NG

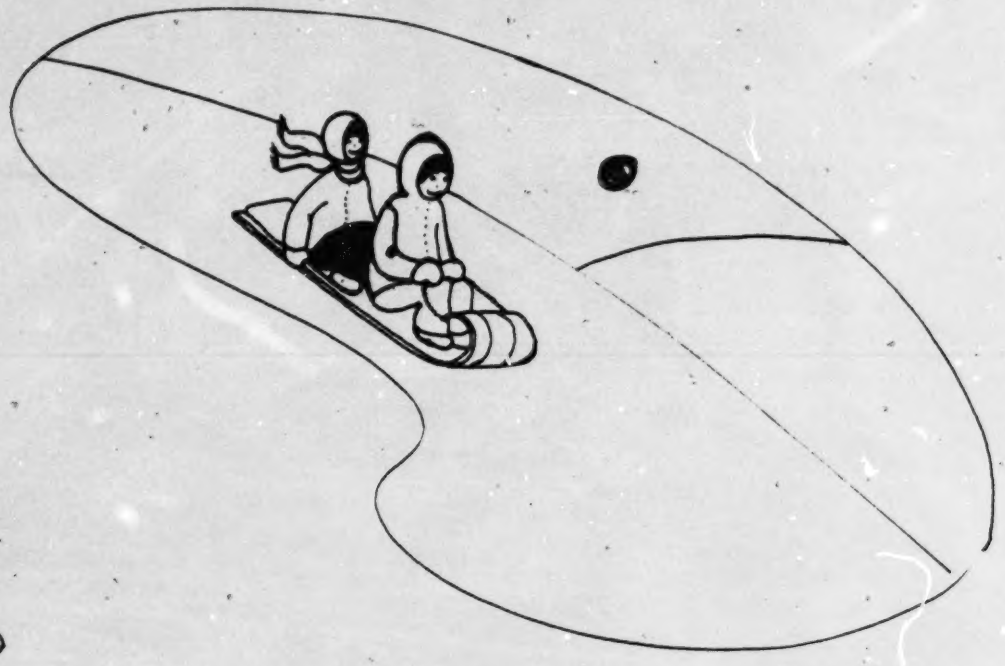


Asxinukuchax̂ akuqaang kukang ama latuĝing as tanasxaadaatuzanaq. Qayas ilidangis chataatuzanaq. Qaniigim aslaan naartaĝil chataatuzanaq. Aniqdus wayaam txidix agunangis ilax̂tangis maatumazangis. Wayaam ilguning agatingis amgix̂tax̂ maqax̂tazaq.

Ataqan uchiitilax̂talizaqang idax̂talizaĝulaq. Vaskrisiiniyam skuulaa ngiin achigaasazanax̂. Vaskrisiiniyam skuulaa iĝamax̂tazanaq. Chaayas pyaanax̂ asax̂tangis mikax̂tazanax̂ aguun asxinus haman pyaanax̂ hnuux̂txidix kadayazanas.



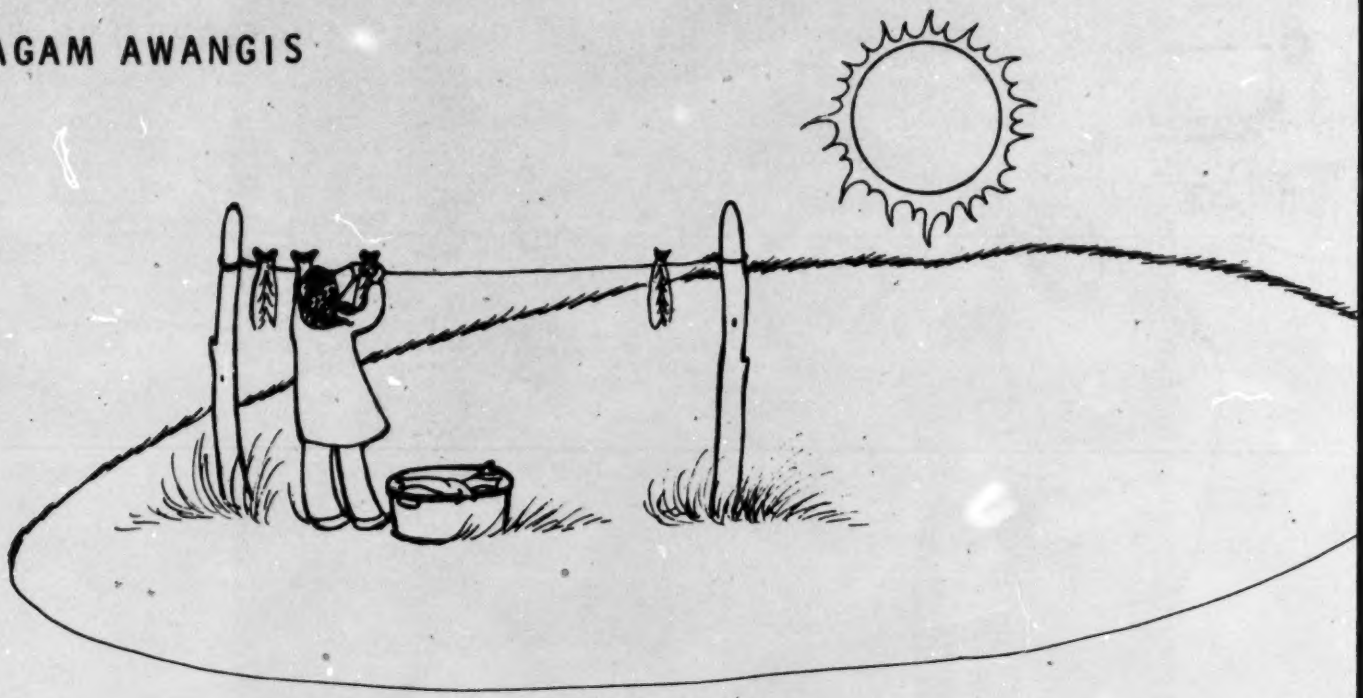
THINGS THAT ARE FUN TO DO



When I was young I liked to go camping with my grandparents. I liked to slide down the hills and go tobogganning in the winter. Children today like to do the same things. Now I watch my grandchildren.

I remember one school teacher we had. She also taught Sunday School. I liked her Sunday School class. She also taught us how to play the organ. We used to try to beat each other to the organ.

AYAGAM AWANGIS



Tanadgusim ayagangis qalgadas qiguzas hudas agul ama qas qan'gimaan sulizas. Adgayus, haanus ama chagis akus hudalgazas. Chiĝanam qangis sulilgazas akuχ chagiχ sulilgaakazaĝulax. Qawas ama itχaygis ilaχtangis sulilgazas.

Qan'gim aslaan ayagas txidix kalaqadagudix haluzas. Nidilim ilan ataqadim uhlii hagumazas. Ayagas qiglul, halul aasal suĝanazas. Ayagas awatuzas, slum kugan ayagas maaguzanangis matal ulamdix ilan awatumazas.

Women work to preserve food. They dry fish and salt fish. Pink and red salmon and halibut are dried. Salmon are salted but halibut are not salted. Sea lion and reindeer meat are preserved. They are both salted.

In the winter, the women have a sewing class. It meets once a week. The women knit, crochet, and weave.

The women have plenty of work to do. Just as women everywhere in the world, they keep house.

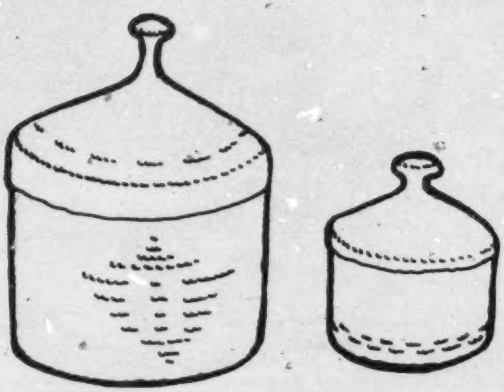
UNANGAM ISX̂ATINGIS

Unangam isx̂atingis aguzigangis amgix̂sizas. Qiigam qakagan ilagaan agulgazas. Suulkum igachix̂sii sug̃al sugdanaasingis dag̃an agulgazas.

Ang̃ag̃inaagamagim ivgiinyax̂ asax̂taa aguzuzangis aag̃an agux̂-tayukaqalikungis mal. Wayaam atuung ayagas uhlingis aguzakungis. Asx̂udgis liidas aguuqangis achigalgazakus, akux̂ qiigaaguzax̂ ngiin sux̂tachx̂isxazalakag̃is. Qiigax̂ liidam raafyuu hiilax̂taa sug̃al achi-galgazakus.

Sug̃analgaa axchigalakax̂ kayug̃naag̃utazax̂ qiigax̂ txin qakas aguun sixsalazakux̂ mal. Qiigas sug̃anaa chig̃nil agach sug̃azakux̂. Isx̂atix̂ inasxal aguun tayalazakux̂. Tayalalgai aguun akitutalgazakus, aag̃an agulgal agungis hizax guudax̂ agulgazakus mal.

ALEUT BASKETS

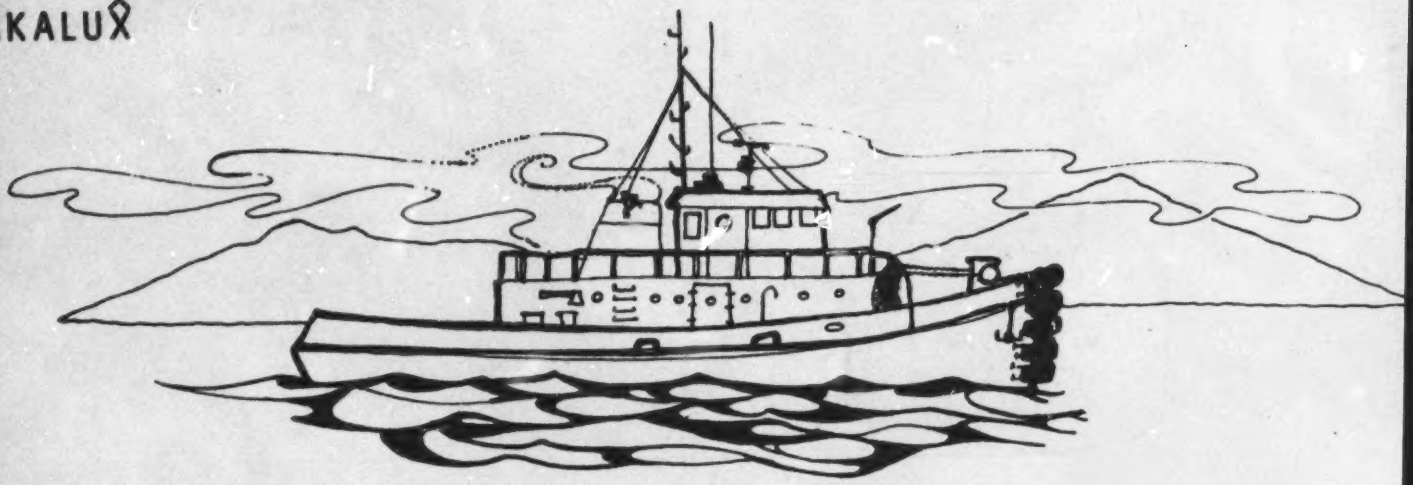


Aleut baskets are small and delicate and very beautiful. They are woven out of dried grass. Some of the grass is dyed to give color to the baskets.

Jenny Golley is the best weaver. She has been weaving for a long time. There are only six women who still weave. The younger girls are learning how to weave. They practice on raffia so they won't waste the dried grass.

Weaving is slow, hard work. When the grass gets too dry it breaks. So the grass is dampened as it is woven. The finished basket is sold. They are very expensive because a woman can only make a few baskets during a year.

AKALUX̂



Atx̂ax̂ hnuigaa kayuĝnakux̂. Hamaanuĝaax̂ kadagaan Adaagix̂ axsxaax̂ matakux̂. Aaĝan Adaagix̂ wayaam naavim tanadgusii akux̂. Maqax̂ ngiin hiĝalakax̂ anax̂ mal haman axsxaakalakax̂. Sunax̂ Adaagim kugagaan Atx̂ax̂ hnuzax̂. Sunam kugan ayx̂algaa akiĝizaĝulax. Slachxizax̂ axtal ayx̂al aguun sichiing asxuunulax hatim alax chasis Atx̂am silaa ayx̂azax̂, malakan slaĝux̂ malgal aguun hamaanuyukazax̂. Quchxaan sunax̂ awatul aguun Atx̂am hadan huyazalakax̂. Hingamal aguun anĝaĝinas Atx̂am kugagaan ayugiikazalakaĝis, quchxaan anĝaĝinas Atx̂am hadan huyanangis Adaagim kugan hachiĝiyukatizas. Sunam kugan aĝalgal aguun, bumaagis ngiin imdachx̂il asx̂algal aguun tingin an'gix̂talagaax̂t qulaan imdachx̂izangis.

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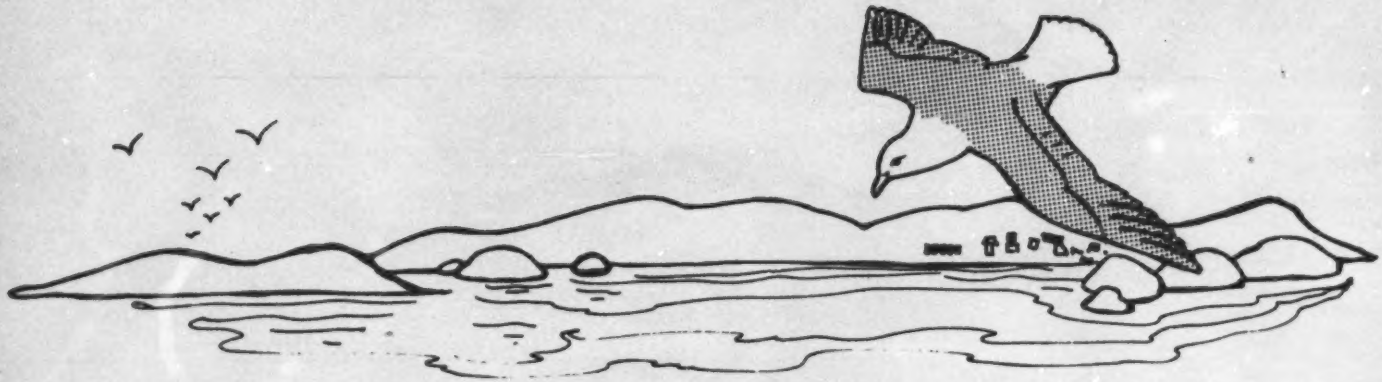


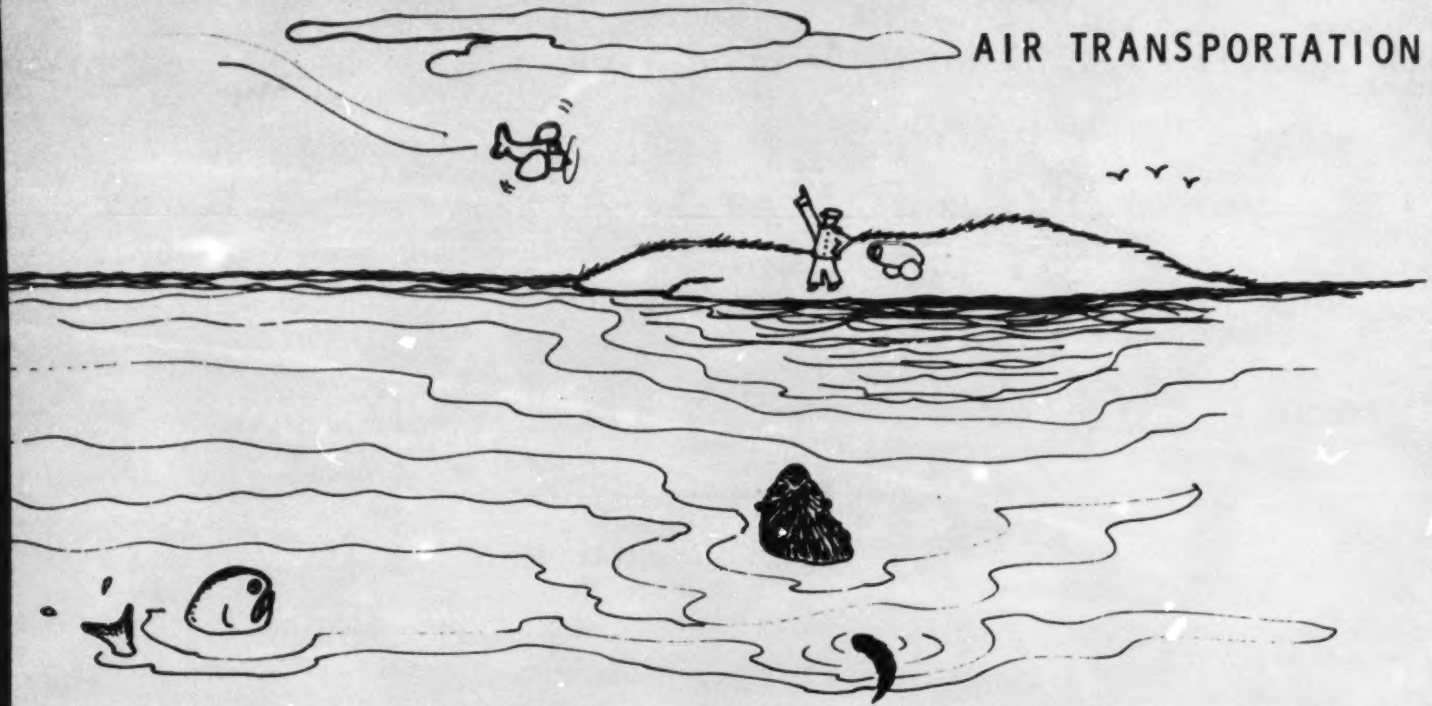
It is difficult to reach Atka. To go there you have to go first to Adak. Since Adak is a Navy base, you must have permission to go there. The Navy has a tug that goes to Atka. It doesn't cost any money to ride on the tug. In good weather, the trip from Adak to Atka takes from nine to twelve hours. If the weather is bad, it takes longer. When the tug is busy, it doesn't go to Atka. The people can't come or go from Atka. Sometimes people get stuck for days on Adak. When you ride on the tug, you must sign the Release of Liability Certificate.

IGAX̂TAX̂

Sunax̂ Atx̂ax̂ hnuzaqadakux̂. Mal igax̂tax̂ agach sugazaqaliigan amasukux̂.

Igax̂tam paylatii Orin asax̂taa Igax̂tal hamaanunaagizax̂. Akux̂ itaangis Adaagix̂ hnux̂tal igax̂taan gazaliinalgiigan matakux̂. Adaagix̂ hnukux̂ hamang tagalagaax̂t higaqax̂. Adaagim tukuugamagii hamang alakagaan mal. Adaagim tukuugamagii agacha maqax̂ hix̂tal igax̂tax̂ hamang tagachx̂iigan matanax̂. Hingamakux̂ mal Orin Igax̂taan as tanaan hadan uqitinax̂. Hingamakux̂ mal Atx̂am angaginangis Atx̂ax̂ hnuhlilakan txidix haaganinas.

Angaginam agiitingis Atx̂am angaginangis tanamdix kugagaan agaax̂tas anuxtazas. Alqus anuxtaasakat?



The tug doesn't run anymore. Maybe there will be air service to the island.

Orin tried to fly there. He had to fly to Adak first to refuel. When he got to Adak, he wasn't allowed to land. Adak said that the Base Commander wasn't there and only he could give permission to land. So Orin had to fly home. No one got to Atka that day or for many days after.

Some people say the Navy is trying to force the people to leave Atka. What do you think?

KIIĜUUSIM ANĜIDACHALUĜINGIS

Alax kuĝuusim anĝidachaluĝikix Atx̂am kugan as. Ataqan hwaĝilizax̂. Quchxaan hwaĝigan ilgii umtalgazax̂. Qangaax slachxizal hulanax̂ aguun, hwaĝnaa ukuĝazaa.

1947 guudagan ilan tanax̂ ayugnix̂tanaa tutalgaqax̂. Anĝaĝinas kasakas akus anaĝix̂ tanam sinigan agul hix̂tal txidix aalunix̂tanas.

Tayaĝum quhmangis kiiĝuusim anĝidachaluĝingis qanglaxtazas. Tayaĝum Bruce Marsh asax̂taa sluĝalinam kugan Atx̂ax̂ hnux̂tazax̂. Chugum hadan kiiĝuusim anĝidachaluĝii ugimagis amaga asax̂taa hangax̂tazax̂. Haman akux̂ hwaĝinaa ukuĝazax̂. Hamaagan akux̂ quganas lal aqadaguun ayugasazax̂.

VOLCANOES

There are two volcanoes on Atka. One of them is still smoking. Sometimes you can smell sulfur in the air. This happens on cold winter nights after a clear day.

The last time the ground shook was in 1947. The people said, "The Russians are building something underground." They were making a joke about the earth shaking.

Some people are interested in volcanoes. Bruce Marsh comes to Atka every summer. He climbs up the north side of the volcano called Korovin. That is the volcano that smokes. He collects rock samples.

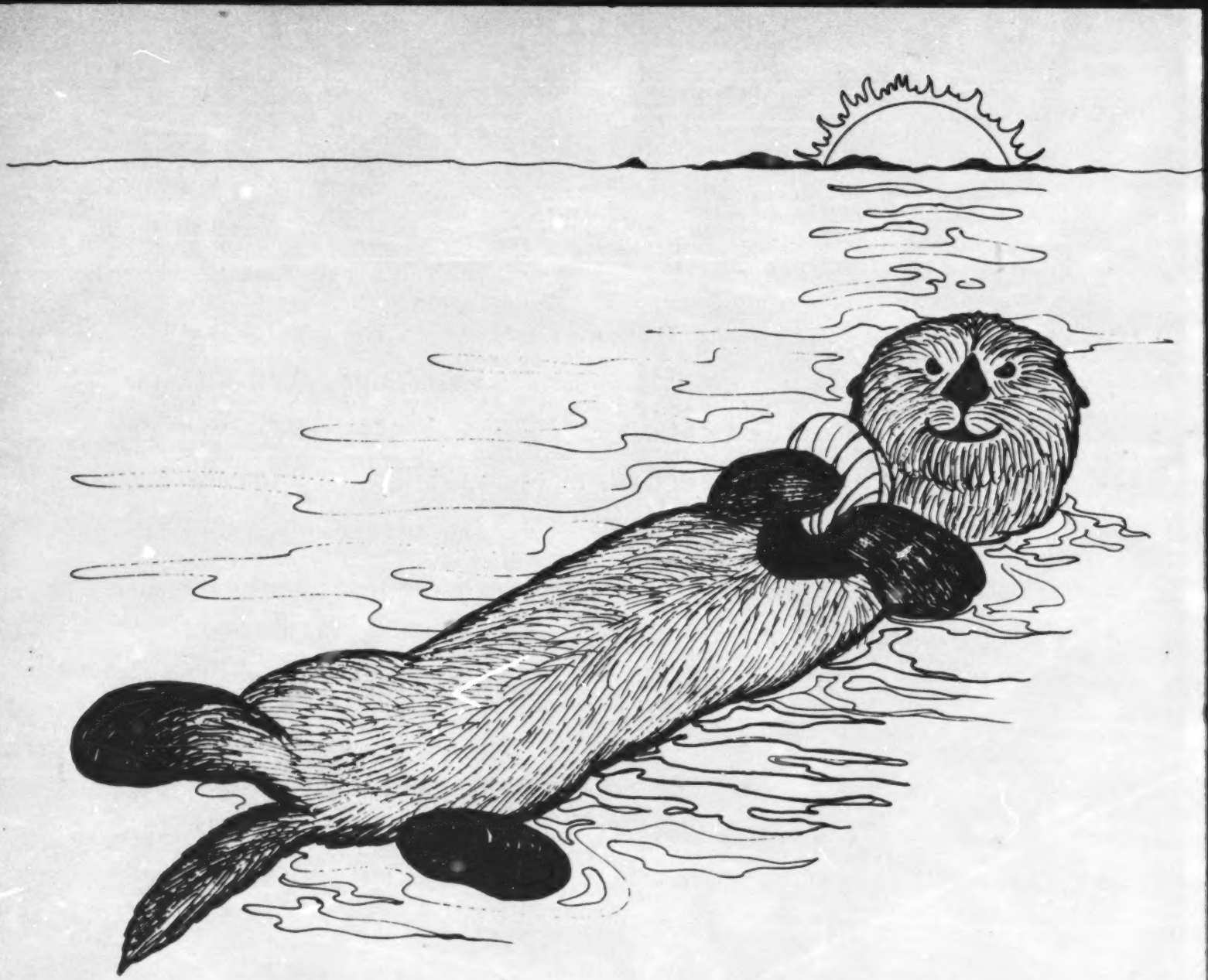
CHNGATUX̂

Chngatux̂ alaĝum algaa ax̂. Hachiin kugan uchigiituzax̂. Chngatus Atx̂am kugan alanazaĝulas. Tanam achidan ama sakaatxan alaĝum ilan uchigikus ukuĝazas.

Chngatus aguĝnas, chalas ama waygis ama qimgitas qaatuzas, alaĝum sinigan chlax̂tal qalgadat lazas. Chngatux̂ chalax̂ atxazal aqadaguun ataqan chaam ilan quganax̂ sux̂tal ama agitaadaa ilan chalax̂ sux̂tal quganam ngaan anamigtaasal six̂il qazax̂. Aguĝnas ilax̂tangis hagumatal qazas.

Chngatus iĝamanazaĝulas, aguĝnas, chalas, ama waygis huzungis qal inatikus. Unangas qalgadax̂tazaqangis akus. Wayaam utal alaĝum achidan hnux̂tal aguĝnas asxuunulax chalas ilgalgal aaĝaguun anaĝiidahlix maazazaĝulax chngatus inatiqangis mal.

Chngatus kaznax̂ sux̂takungis mal anax̂ mal kalulgaakazaĝulangis.



SEA OTTER

The sea otter is a sea mammal. It likes to swim on its back. There are lots of sea otters on Atka. They swim near the shore and they swim way out in the ocean.

Sea otters like to eat sea urchins, clams, mussels and crabs. They dive underwater to get their food. The sea otters open clams by pounding them between two rocks. They hold one rock on their stomachs while floating on their backs. They put a clam on the rock and they bang it with a rock held in their other hand. They open sea urchins the same way.

Sea otters are bad. They feed on all the sea food that the Aleuts used to eat. There were times when one could go down to the beach and gather sea urchins and clams. But today you are lucky if you find one little clam or sea urchin.

The sea otter is protected by the Federal Government. No one can shoot them.